FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE IN GENEVA OPENS

BK210141 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] The three-member standing committee on Afghanistan, set up at the recent Islamic foreign ministers conference, held its first session in Geneva yesterday. Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh and Secretary General of the Islamic Secretariat Habib Chatti held a meeting with representatives of the Afghan resistance movement.

Later, Chatti told newsmen they had a general review of the Afghan situation. Pakistan, Iran and the leaders of the Afghan resistance movement expressed their views on the military and political situation, he said. He added that they know that the meeting cannot solve the problem, but it will be helpful in explaining the situation.

Chatti said the leaders of the resistance movement have expressed a common stand and whatever they said individually at the meeting was aimed only at providing information. There was unanimity at the meeting that it is fundamental and most important that the Soviet troops immediately withdraw from Afghanistan. The meeting particularly aimed at assessing the possibilities of a political settlement of the problem.

Chatti, Qotbzadeh Interviewed

LD201545 Bern Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Interview with Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference, and Sadeq Qotbzadeh, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on conference on Afghan issue--interviewer not identified, date not specified; recorded]

[Text] [Chatti] Our aim is well known: to start a dialogue between the Afghan sides with a view to achieving a dialogue with the Soviet Union aimed [words indistinct] the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and returning the country to the status of a nonaligned independent country.

[Question] It is not, however, at all certain that a delegation of Mr Karmal's government will also come to Mont Pelerin. It is not yet certain....

[Chatti--interrupting] No, it is not certain yet. We have not yet received any answer, positive or negative. As far as I am concerned the door remains open and the possibility still exists that this delegation will arrive.

[Announcer] That was Mr Habib Chatti. Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh clarified [words indistinct] and with whom the tripartite committee intended to hold discussions for the moment.

[Qotbzadeh] First of all, it is in order to discuss officially with representatives of the Afghan people who are fighting against Russia's [words indistinct] forces, the objectives they have and the hopes we have to help them to achieve their freedom and independence.

[Question] Do you still continue not to recognize the government in power in Kabul?

[Qotbzadeh] Yes, it is above all the firm stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it is not acceptable that foreign forces [words indistinct] and in particular Afghanistan--a neighbor, a Muslim country--one cannot accept the presence of Soviet troops there. At the same time, a government which is practically and finally set up by the Soviet Union could not be recognized by us. This stand, this policy was adopted in full by the conference of Muslim countries in Islambad, and the committee entrusted with following up the situation in Afghanistan and the implementation of the Islambad resolutions is of the same view and has the same aim. Therefore, we shall not recognize the government (?set up) by the current so-called Afghan power which is practically a Soviet [word indistinct] authority.

[Question] You would, nonetheless, agree to talk to a delegation of the current Afghan Government should it come?

[Qotbzadeh] Not as a delegation of the Afghan Government but as an interested party, and this also is contained in the Islamabad resolutions, that is, that they are an interested party and not a government.

[Announcer] So the framework and participants for the conference on Afghanistan have been fixed.

Chatti on Soviet Withdrawal

BK221027 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 JUN 80

[Text] Radio Moscow has reported that the Soviet Union has started withdrawing some of its military units from Afghanistan whose presence there is not necessary at present. Quoting the command headquarters of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the radio adds that these withdrawals have been made after consultations with the Afghan government.

Commenting on the move, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Habib Chatti said it was a welcome measure which might be due to recent Islamic diplomatic efforts. Talking to newsmen in Geneva, he said what is now needed is a precise calendar for a total withdrawal of the Soviet forces in the shortest possible time.

Rebel Leader on Soviet Withdrawal

NC221047 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] Mont Pelerin, Switzerland, June 22 (AFP)--The proposed partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, announced today, is intended to deceive world opinion as Moscow actually strengthens its presence in the country, president of the opposition Afghan Islamic Party Gulbuddin Hikmatyar said today.

Mr Hikmatyar, who has been attending a tripartite Islamic Conference meeting here this weekend, said this "claimed withdrawal" was intended to forestall a wave of solidarity and aid to the rebel cause, and would be totally illogical.

The "puppet regime in Kabul" could not do without Soviet troops at a time when the conference had clearly demonstrated the unity of all the resistance movements, Mr Hikmatyar said.

According to his information, Soviet troops were being reinforced to counter massive desertions from the Afghan Army, he added.

Similar sentiments were expressed today by rebel sources in Tehran, who condemned the TASS report as "a propaganda manoeuvre" linked to the Moscow Olympics.

(The troops would return to Afghanistan once the games were over, representatives of the Jam'iat-e Eslami group said.

(The Iranian Foreign Ministry refused comment until Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh returned from the Islamic meeting and the government was officially informed of the withdrawal by Moscow.)

But Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti said here he noted "with satisfaction" the "start of a Soviet withdrawal".

He was sure the Soviet Union would be sensitive to the conference, but warned that a total withdrawal was absolutely essential and a timetable for it should be drawn up "as soon as possible".

Communique Issued

BK221050 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] The three-man standing committee set up by the Islamic foreign ministers conference to secure a peaceful solution of the Afghan problem has decided to make every effort to mobilize and obtain all possible humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people, whose suffering has increased because of the intensified military operations by forces in Afghanistan. This has been stated in a communique issued at the end of the standing committee's meeting in Geneva.

The committee, composed of the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Iran and the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, also had a meeting with the delegation of the Afghan freedom fighters.

The communique said the committee noted the determination of the resistance leaders to persevere in resisting foreign military intervention and occupation until the liberation of their country.

According to the communique, the committee explained to the resistance leaders that its mandate was to explore a peaceful solution in accordance with the principles laid down by the Islamic conference. These include the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops; respect for the political independence and nonaligned status of Afghanistan and its Islamic identity; and the right of the Afghan people to self-determination. It expressed the hope that other parties concerned would also enter into consultations with the committee searching for a peaceful and honorable solution.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWING UNNECESSARY MILITARY UNITS

LD221136 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 0630 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reports: In accordance with reports from the command of the USSR military units in Afghanistan and in accordance with the agreement which has been concluded recently with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government, part of those USSR military units whose stay in Afghanistan is no longer necessary are withdrawing to USSR territory.

TASS Report on Withdrawal

LD220408 Moscow TASS in English 0404 GMT 22 Jun 80

["Report from Kabul"--TASS headline]

[Text] Kabul, June 22, TASS--According to information from the command of Soviet military contingents now staying in Afghanistan, some army units whose stay in Afghanistan is not necessary at present are being withdraw these days to territory of the USSR on agreement with the Afghan Government.

AFP Report

BK231010 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 23 Jun 80

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Kabul, 23 June (AFP)--One Soviet division and 108 tanks left for the Soviet Union early this morning through the Salang pass highway, an official announcement here said.

East European and Soviet journalists were taken to the Soviet Army garrison and an Afghan television team filmed the withdrawal.

The announcement by the Information Ministry said that today's withdrawal was in accordance with "an agreement reached between the commander of Soviet forces and the Afghan Government on Sunday."

Friendly East European correspondents said that they were told by the Soviet commander that one division of troops and 100 tanks were being withdrawn under the agreement. An East European journalist said that he counted "at least 200 Soviet trucks and 100 tanks coming out of the Soviet Army garrision and heading towards north."

News of the Soviet withdrawal first came from the official BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY here on Sunday morning.

The agency carried a one-paragraph story saying "as a result of an agreement between the Democratic Republic of Afghainstan and the commander of the Soviet forces, some Soviet contingents which are no longer required will be leaving Afghanistan for the Soviet Union."

The state-owned radio repeated the news in all its news broadcasts throughout the day.

Average Afghans did not believe the news. A hotel lobby boy reacted saying "...this is just a trick...to win us over." However, excited Afghans were seen confering on Kabul streets and gunfire was heard in downtown Kabul.

Informed sources said that Afghans were celebrating the news of Soviet withdrawal.

Diplomatic circles here, however, do not attach much importance to the Soviet withdrawal saying that it was just "eyewash" to contain the growing anti-Soviet feeling among the Afghans and also to create confusion at the seven-nation summit of industrialized nations being held at Venice.

The one division of troops which the Soviets claimed to be withdrawing had already been replaced by the arrival of 10,000 fresh troops from the Soviet Union early this month, the sources said.

Western diplomatic military experts here said that the Soviets were withdrawing the tanks as they have been found useless in a mountainous country like Afghanistan. However, they estimate that the Soviet Union still has 110,000 troops and 4,000 tanks in Afghanistan.

VIETNAMESE, BULGARIAN CP DELEGATIONS RECEIVED BY KARMAL

JN201756 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received Nguyen Tuan Tai, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Vietnamese Communist Party International Relations Department, and his delegation at the Revolution Council headquarters yesterday.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent says that a short time earlier, Karmal received Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

During these meetings, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, the PDPA Central Committee general secretary, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister talked to the friendly countries' party delegations about [words indistinct], mutual aid and issues concerning the PDPA and the parties of the two friendly countries, Bulgaria and Vietnam.

The Bulgarian and Vietnamese Party delegations arrived in Kabul on an official and cordial visit in response to an invitation from the PDPA Central Committee.

Speeches at Conference

LD212126 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee and Nguyen Tuan Tai, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Department of the Vietnam Communist Party [VCP], today took part in a scientific conference which was held in the Stowr Hall of the Foreign Ministry and in their speeches explained the experiences of the movements, revolutions and struggles of their parties.

At the beginning of the conference, Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Secretariat, introduced Stoyan Mikhaylov and Nguyen Tuan Tai to the cadres and the activists of the PDPA and expressed his thanks for their participation in this conference.

Some members of the PDPA Central Committee and Revolution Council and cadres and activists of different sections of the party took part in this scientific conference.

First, Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee spoke, highlighting the revolutionary struggle of the people of Bulgaria, and in particular the experiences of the Communist Party of that country. He talked about the brief history of that party and recalled the just struggle of the people of his country--under the leadership of the working class and with the cooperation of a united national front--against reaction and imperialism and especially against fascism. He made statements concerning the relations of the government and people of the Republic of Bulgaria with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], the glorious Sawr Revolution and in particular the new stage of the Sawr Revolution under the leadership of the PDPA.

He expressed a desire for the strengthening of the relations between the two countries and shed light on details of USSR aid for the people of Bulgaria for the construction of a socialist society and in particular in the struggle against fascism.

Subsequently, Nguyen Tuan Tai, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Department of the VCP, amid applause and a continuous welcome, in his speech conveyed the greetings of the party, government and the people of heroic Vietnam to the party, government and people of Afghanistan, wished progress and prosperity for revolutionary Afghanistan and expressed his pleasure to the people of Afghanistan, who have supported the heroic struggles of the people of Vietnam, under the leadership of the heroic Communist Party of that country, against colonialism, imperialism and foreign aggression. He, very clearly and resolutely, declared the support of the party and people for the Sawr Revolution, and in particular the new stage of the Sawr Revolution under the leadership of the PDPA and Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA. In the course of his speech he recalled the ups and downs and proud history of the VCP and the people of that country and the historic aid of the USSR for the people of Vietnam. He pointed out the various revolutionary struggles of the people under the leadership of the Communist Party and the hero, Ho Chi Minh.

At the end, Mahmud Barialay, member of the PDPA Central Committee, in a speech analyzed the importance of the conference. He discussed the common pride of the struggling people of Bulgaria, Vietnam and revolutionary Afghanistan and expressed his appreciation for the participation of Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, and Nguyen Tuan Tai, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Department of the VCP, at this scientific conference.

Departure of Delegations

GF221735 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] The Bulgarian Party delegation led by Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, which was in Kabul on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, left Kabul for home today.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by PDPA Secretariat member Saleh Mohammad Ziray, party officials, the Bulgarian ambassador in Kabul and Bulgarian Embassy staff.

Nguyen Tuan Tai member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Department of the Vietnamese Communist Party, which was in Kabul on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee, has left Kabul for home. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Mahmud Barialay, PDPA Central Committee member and official in charge of the Central Committee's international relations committee; party cadres; the Vietnamese ambassador; and members of the Vietnamese Embassy in Kabul.

KARMAL RECEIVES UN OFFICE CHIEF 21 JUNE

LD211542 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, this morning received the chief of the UN Development Program Office in Afghanistan for a courtesy call at the Revolution Council Headquarters.

DETAILS OF KESHTMAND MEETINGS AT CEMA SESSION REPORTED

LD221645 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Excerpts] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], vice chairman of the Revolution Council, deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and minister of planning, held friendly meetings with the heads of delegations participating in the 34th CEMA session in Prague and discussed matters of interest with them. Among other major resolutions adopted at this session, the admission of the DRA as an observer member of this council was unanimously approved. The CSSR premier said at the final meeting that the admission of Afghanistan as an observer is indicative of the principled attitudes of the fraternal parties and their governments. Also at the meeting the premier of the People's Republic of Bulgaria welcomed the request of the DRA Government regarding admission of Afghanistan to CEMA as an observer and once again expressed the solidarity of his people with the struggles of the people of Afghanistan against imperialism and reaction and their attempts to change the direction of the Sawr Revolution. He expressed the belief that the people of Afghanistan, with the assistance of that great socialist country, the USSR, and with support from other fraternal socialist countries, and under the leadership of the PDPA, will eliminate the foreign aggressors and their [word indistinct] and will successfully pursue the path of building a new society.

The vice president of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of the DRA arrived in Moscow after the conclusion of the 34th CEMA session in Prague.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARWARI LEAVES FOR USSR

LD221505 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] Asadollah Sarwari, the vice president of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, left for the Soviet Union for medical treatment today.

Secretaries of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and members of the Politburo, Dr Saleh Mohammad Zirey and Nur Ahmad Nur; some members of the Revolution Council and some Cabinet members; and Karima Keshtmand [a woman's name, possibly Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand's wife] saw him off at Kabul International Airport.

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS SEND MESSAGE TO RATEBZAD

DL201756 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 19 Jun 80

[Text] The USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Association With Foreign Countries and the USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Society With Afghanistan, in a message addressed to Dr Anahita Ratebzad, chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association have expressed great worry about the aggressive steps of the United States in the Persian Gulf area.

This message which is from Ivanov, first deputy chairman of the presidium of the USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Association With Foreign Countries, and Antonov, president of the USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Society with Afghanistan, mentions that it can be said with certainty that the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association, under your leadership, is supporting the Soviet friendship society and conveys its wishes to the great masses of Afghanistan. It will also take steps on its part to reveal the conspiratorial policy of the United States in the region and also the activities and tactical measures to weaken the sovereignty of the free and Democratic Republic of Afghanistan or the gains of the Sawr Revolution.

The message also expresses warm solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Afghan people and is certain of their success over internal reaction and imperialism.

The people of the USSR are totally supporting the peace initiative of the Government of Afghanistan for the solution of the political problems in the region and are asking for an end to imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the free and independent Republic of Afghanistan.

The USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Association With Foreign Countries and the USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Society With Afghanistan, regarding the wish of the Soviet society to see an end to the interference of the United States in the Persian Gulf area, also point out that the USSR Friendship and Cultural Relations Association With Foreign Countries declares that the United States, with obvious disregard for international law and regulations, has announced this area to be its important area of interest and is trying to install its military control over this area. It is trying to organize conspiracies against Iran, Afghanistan and Arab countries.

It is also mentioned in part of the message that the Soviet people, who, for many years, on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding, have had steady relations with the peoples of the Near and Far East, cannot remain indifferent in the face of the aggression on the Carter government in this area, particularly near the borders of the USSR.

We declare our total support for the people and countries of this region who are foiling the U.S. conspiracies and want to live in conditions of peace, freedom and independence.

HIGH COURT PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTED

LD212158 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] The presidency of the office of the Revolution Council reports: For the purpose of the realization of the goals of the Basic Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] toward the separation of the three branches of state power, the maintaining of democracy and the protection of the rights of the individuals in society; based on the proposal of an authorized authority, the ratification of the Presidium of the Revolution Council and approval of Babrak Karmal, president of the DRA Revolution Council, Nezamudin Tahzib has been appointed as the president of the High Court and 'Abdorrauf as vice president of the High Court.

KABUL ASSAILS AGHA SHAHI'S 'GENDARME' REMARKS

LD202352 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Agha Shahi, foreign minister of Pakistan, has said that Pakistan is fully prepared to fulfill the role of gendarme in the gulf region.

Radio Tehran, quoting the AL-KHALIJ daily of the Arab Emirates, in the course of a statement concerning the inclination of Agha Shahi, said: If this is true, then it indicates the probability of a conspiracy near Iran.

AL-KHALIJ writes: Agha Shahi has stated that Pakistan is prepared to fulfill the role of gendarme in the gulf region, provided that the Arab countries of the region give $5-billion aid to Pakistan.

AL-KHALIJ adds, quoting Agha Shahi, that if this kind of aid is given to Pakistan, Arabs could live in peace and without fear about their warm waters and oil regions.

It should be said that the United States, after the overthrow of the shah of Iran and after losing its gendarme, embarked on seeking the installation of many gendarmes in the region and, in collusion with the [words indistinct] countries, has now included Pakistan, too, in the group of gendarmes having their interests in the region and is busy preparing preliminary measures for equiping Pakistan in order to strengthen the Eastern front, too, from every point of view.

But, in accordance with AL-KHALIJ and in accordance with the confession of Agha Shahi himself, the leaders of Arabs and the region have rejected his proposal, and this indicates that open inclinations toward the interest of the United States and the acceptance of U.S. military aid has been (?so hated) that even if an inclination toward it exists, nobody wants to welcome it.

The daily adds that the toilers of the countries of the region will not allow their leaders to bring them--once again using the pretext of the avoidance of the so-called USSR influence--under the yoke of the U.S. world-devouring imperialism and subsequently embark on the plundering and looting of their wealth.

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS PUSHTU LEADER ON AFGHANISTAN

LD211322 Kuwait KUNA in English 1038 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Kuwait, June 21 (KUNA)--A prominent Pakistani leader accused the United States, Britain and Pakistan of working in direct collusion over the Afghanistan issue and appealed to the Arab countries to help find a solution for that issue. However, he resented the lack of Arab support for the Afghani people.

The leader, 91-year old Ghaffar Khan, known as a symbol of freedom struggle against British colonialism on the Indian sub-continent, (?said) in an interview published by the ARAB TIMES English daily Saturday that the Arabs have let the Afghani people down by depriving them of any assistance: "they are showering all their favours on Pakistan".

Khan, known as Gandhi in the northwestern frontier province, was at constant war with various Pakistani governments and this cost him 30 [words indistinct] in British and Pakistan jails. He launched a social reform movement in 1920 under the name of 'Servants for God' and [words indistinct] to politics when [words indistinct] Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru in fighting against British colonialism. He is presently in India for medical treatment.

The Pushtu tribal leader criticized policises of the Pakistani president, General Ziaul Haq, and said the general had ignored a letter in which he suggested direct talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan to resolve the Afghanistan issue. "I told President Ziaul that by fighting his Muslim brothers with American arms, he was not following the Islamic path", Khan said.

(?Speaking) about the events in Afghanistan, the leader said that the late president, Hafizollah Amin, was not a communist but "was in fact an American agent who had launched terror policies and carried out eliminations of Soviet sympathisers. (?He had) also reached an understanding with both the United States and Pakistan. Therefore, the Soviet intervened and toppled him", Khan said.

Khan expressed his full support for the Soviet demand for certain guarantees against non-interference in Afghanistan (?affairs), as a pre-condition for their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Kabul Radio on Interview

LD212058 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the prominent leader of the freedom movement of the peoples of South Asia from the yoke of colonialism, has said that Hafizollah Amin was an agent and spy of the United States who pursued a policy of terror and the murder of people.

'Abdol Ghafar Khan, in an interview with the ARAB TIMES daily, said: Hafizollah Amin was in collusion with the United States and Pakistan. Ghafar Khan declared that Pakistan is covertly united with the United States against Afghanistan, which is why Ghafar Khan, in a letter addressed to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, asked why he wanted to turn the region into an area of war and provoke the Muslim people of Pakistan, who are armed with U.S. arms, against the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

According to the daily, Ziaul Haq has so far not replied to the said letter of Ghafar Khan.

Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan is currently undergoing medical treatment in India.

GOVERNOR ATTENDS REOPENING OF PROVINCIAL ROAD

LD202133 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] By repairs and reconstruction of the [word indistinct] village road yesterday the main road between Fayzabad, the center of the Badakhshan Province, and Qonduz Province, was reopened for traffic and a caravan of motor vehicles passed along it. A few months ago this road had been destroyed by counterrevolutionary and antihomeland elements.

At a meeting held yesterday in Fayzabad on this occasion, the governor of Badakhshan condemned the antihuman, treacherous, antirevolutionary and antihomeland actions of these elements. He expressed pleasure at the reopening of the main road for traffic and thanked those institutions which have cooperated in repairing and reopening the road.

A number of the toiling people of Fayzabad also made speeches in this meeting, and expressed their readiness to speedily crush the enemies of the people and the dear homeland.

According to another report, in the past week the members of the Afghan Youth Democratic Organization of Baghlan, have put rubble on 6 km of roads of Pol-e Khomri city.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS' KILL SIX PEOPLE

LD211728 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] In the course of the terrorism, the spreading of fear and subversion by counter-revolutionary elements, six of our toilers--innocent people--were martyred by these traitorous forces to the homeland, people and revolution on 17, 18 and 19 June.

Our compatriots were cowardly shot 1 km southeast of Qalat in the Kohestan district of Parvan Province and in the Jabal Os Saraj district of Parvan Province.

The country's security authorities also report that on the night of 19 June, two piles of wheat were set on fire in a city in Takhar Province, and that on 17 June the draft center and a boys' school in the province of Qonduz were set on fire by the servants of the United States and China. Educational centers and consumer goods have been destroyed.

BBC QUOTES SOURCES ON SOVIET TROOP BUILDUP

TA201524 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Jun 80

[From correspondent's report]

[Text] There are continued reports of strong reinforcements of Soviet troops moving into Afghanistan after rebel activity around the capital, Kabul. Mark Tully, in this dispatch, quotes Western diplomatic sources as confirming the Soviet buildup.

[Begin Tully recording] Western diplomatic reports reaching Delhi speak of [words indistinct] giant Soviet Antonov transport planes landing at Kabul airport every night.

No new figure for the number of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is given but other sources have put that figure as high as 120,000. A journalist in Kabul over the weekend reported that a complete parachute division had been sent in. Part of the reason for the buildup appears to be increasing guerrilla activity in the mountains around the capital and reports of frequent attacks on the strategically vital road leading from Kabul to the Soviet Union.

At the same time, there is more evidence that Soviet forces cannot rely on the Afghan Army for support. One reporter found evidence that Afghan Army officers are actually colluding with rebel Muslim tribes.

The Soviet Union is also facing difficulties within the regime it installed. Diplomats report 8 to 10 deaths per night in Kabul alone in gun battles between the two factions in government. According to diplomats, the Soviets are desperately trying to keep the lid on the party feuding. [end recording]

AFP: DIPLOMAT REPORTS ON CURRENT SITUATION

OW201357 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] New Delhi, June 20 (AFP)--Afghan insurgents have stepped up their hit-and-run attacks against Soviet and Afghan forces in the Paghman area north of the capital, a Western diplomatic source said here today. The diplomat, who has just returned from Kabul after a six-month stay, said he could see increased activity by Russian helicopter gunships and MiG jet fighters in the Paghman sector, about 30 km (18 miles) north of Kabul, during the last few days.

The diplomat, who refused to be identified, said the Russians had also increased the number of flights by heavy Antonov transport planes to and from Kabul airport four to five times compared to two weeks ago. He was unable to say whether the planes were carrying reinforcements or supplies for the Soviet forces. Kabul itself, according to the diplomat, was quiet and life appeared to be normal. But he asserted that there was a seething resentment among the people against the Russians. "Under the surface we hear stories of attacks on stray Russians, Afghan officials disappearing and people taken away to jails," he added.

The diplomat stated that the rebels had increased their strength considerably during the last three months and had also acquired better weapons. He did not know where the weapons came from but suggested the Afghan Army deserters as one possible source.

Althought the insurgents were becoming bolder the diplomat did not think they were ready to launch a major offensive against the Russians or engage the Soviet and Afghan forces in an open battle. "For the moment they are likely to confine themselves to sneak attacks on convoys, taking a pot shot at soldiers guarding army camps and killing a Russian here and there," he said.

He noted that these tactics had forced the Russians into a "search and destroy" stage like the Americans once faced in Vietnam. It might take the Soviet forces a long time to ferret out the insurgents, he added.

The diplomat felt that the Russians had clearly failed in their objective in Afghanistan to stabilise the situation quickly both militarily and politically and withdraw the troops.

"Militarily they have got nowhere and despite their ruthless methods insurgent activities have only increased," he said.

Politically, the Babrak Karmal regime has failed to win over the people in spite of various measures like the change of the national flag, release of detainees and amendment of the Constitution. There was also intense party feuding within the ruling People's Democratic Party. To sum up, the diplomat said, the Russians were "a long way from the point where they could go home leaving a friendly government and people on the border."

AFGHAN REBELS ISSUE CALL FOR 'PROTEST WEEK'

OW202119 Paris AFP in English 2052 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 20 (AFP)--Afghan rebels have called for the observance of a "protest week" in Kabul as of tomorrow, rebel sources said here today. Leaflets have been distributed in the Afghan capital condemning "Soviet atrocities" against Moslems opposing communist rule, the same sources said.

The leaflets reportedly call for a general strike by the public, shopkeepers, transport workers and government officials. If successful, the strike would be the second in the Afghan capital in four months. Last February, a clandestinely planned strike movement halted commercial life throughout Kabul. There were hundreds of casualties following official intervention in the two-day protest.

The Afghan capital was reported here to be facing already a shortage of foodstuffs, with commercial activity marred by student riots and anti-Russian demonstrations. Insurgents are reported to have been increasing pressure on government and Soviet occupation forces around Kabul recently. Diplomats and other travellers reported ambushes from the capital itself and scattered gunfire.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, [said that] southeast of Kabul near the Pakistani border, fierce fighting that opened several days ago was continuing. The same organization said that Moslem guerillas near Khost in that province destroyed seven armoured vehicles with anti-tank mines, damaged a number of tanks with rockets and killed a large number of troops loyal to the regime of President Babrak Karmal.

The fighting, it was specified, was between Moslem rebels and Afghan soldiers, Soviet troops not having managed to reach the area. A long Soviet convoy comprising 400 vehicles was reportedly trapped in Paktia Province's Urgun Valley earlier. Moslem freedom fighters also claimed to have captured four antiaircraft guns and allarge number of Kalashnikov rifles from Afghan soldiers in the Paktia locality of Tahshaka.

BBC REPORTS KABUL SHOPKEEPERS AGAIN CLOSE IN PROTEST

TA220640 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Jun 80

[From "Newsdesk"]

[Text] In Afghanistan, the continuing resistance to Soviet presence is reported to have again centered on the shopkeepers of Kabul. Mark Tully in Delhi reports on what happened and how the Russians reacted.

[Begin Tully recording] According to two independent reports reaching Delhi, all shops were closed yesterday except for bakers and grocers. There have been widespread reports in the Pakistan city of Peshawar, where most the Muslim rebel groups have offices, that there would be an anti-Soviet protest in Kabul yesterday. The authorities appear to fear a repeat of February's anti-Soviet demonstrations, which were sparked off by a strike of shopkeepers.

According to reports reaching Delhi, tanks and armored personnel carriers were moved into the city early in the morning, and helicopter gunships flew low over the housetops as a warning. Vehicles with loudspeakers also toured the city urging people to go about their business as usual. Some schoolchildren and university students are also reported to have held processions. There are no indications yet as to whether security forces opened fire or whether they were any casualties.

Radio Kabul has said nothing about the situation in the capital, but in one of its rare admissions of rebel successes, the radio did say that rebels had killed six people in different provinces and that an army recruiting center and a school had been blown up in Qonduz Province near the Soviet border. [end recording]

FORMER MINISTER COMMENTS ON SOVIET CASUALTIES

LD222044 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] Dr Abdollah Omar, former minister of public health in the Daud government which was replaced by the pro-Soviet Babrak Karmal one, has been in France for rather less than a month. He told our correspondent (Francois Foucart) how the Afghan resistance is organized and about the losses it is inflicting on the Soviet troops. Here is what he had to say:

[Begin Omar recording] Ordinary soldiers are buried in Kabul or in the area where they die, but all generals and senior officers are placed in coffins that are made for them and sent off to the Soviet Union. In the early days all this went on under conditions of secrecy byt at present everybody can witness it, with formal ceremony in the case of senior officers. The ceremonies are held on airfields before the remains are flown to Moscow. There is no doubt that the number of coffins is growing daily and this must be having some effect on public opinion in Soviet Russia because at first the Russian soldiers were being told: You are going to Afghanistan because Afghanistan is our friend; it is being invaded by the Americans and the Chinese. When the soliders arrived in Afghanistan they were able to see there were neither Americans nor Chinese. It is the Afghan people who are doing the fighting. [end recording]

DELHI REPORTS DEATH OF SANJAY GANDHI 23 JUNE

BK230713 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Jun 80

[Text] The body of Sanjay Gandhi, who died in a plane crash in New Delhi this morning, will be cremated tomorrow. His body is being brought from the Lohia hospital to Mrs Gandhi's residence at 1 Safdar Jung Road, where it will be kept till tomorrow. The body will remain in the front room of the prime minister's house.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi's death occurred when the plane in which he was flying crashed around 8 this morning. Capt Subash Saxena, chief instructor of the Delhi flying club, was also killed.

The single-engine, red colored, two-seater Pushpak plane crashed near Vishwa Yubak Kendra [world youth center]. An eyewitness told an All-India Radio correspondent that he saw the ill-fated aircraft soaring high into the sky and the next moment there was big crash. Our correspondent reports that the aircraft was lying badly twisted and mauled (?on the) ground. It seemed to have crashed through a tree.

Mr Gandhi's and Mr Saxena's bodies were rushed to the Lohia hospital. Doctors' efforts to revive them failed, and they were declared dead. Mrs Indira Gandhi, who had rushed to the hospital, took the news of her son's death with her customary fortitude and courage. At the hospital, she was seen consoling the mother of Capt Saxena.

Inquiry Ordered

BK230904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 80

[Excerpts] A plane crash in New Delhi this morning brought to a tragic end the promising political career of 33-year-old Sanjay Gandhi, member of Parliament and the youngest son of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi.

As the news of the death spread, ministers, members of Parliament and other leaders rushed to the hospital. Thousands of men, women and children rushed to Mrs Gandhi's residence at 1 Safdar Jung Road where the body of Mr Gandhi is expected to arrive from the hospital. Mr Gandhi's colleagues in Youth Congress-I burst into tears shouting the slogan: Sanjay Gandhi ammar rahe [Sanjay Gandhi is immortal]. At the hospital where thousands of people had started converging the calmed and controlled Mrs Gandhi took command of the situation. As mourners surged forward, she was herself seen controlling the situation.

Vice President Hidayatullah, Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mr Charan Singh, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr L.K. Advani and Mr Chandra Shekhar were among the early callers at the hospital.

The union cabinet has decided to appoint a court of inquiry to look into the circumstances leading to the crash.

BULGARIAN CP SECRETARY MEETS WITH MRS GANDHI

BK211610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov has, in a letter to Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, expressed his country's desire to establish long term economic and commercial relations with India.

The letter was delivered to Mrs Gandhi by Bulgarian Communist Party Secretary Georgi Filipov, who called on her in New Delhi today. The Bulgarian president has invited Mrs Gandhi to visit his country. The invitation has been accepted in principle.

Filipov, during his 40-minute talk with Mrs Gandhi, conveyed to her that Bulgaria is conscious of India's increased capacity to manufacture sophisticated items and would like to import such items to the maximum possible extent. He also expressed his country's desire to set up an Indo-Bulgarian chamber of commerce and industry. During the talks he was accompanied by his ministers of machine building and light industry.

Earlier, external Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao called on Filipov and had discussions with him. Later the Bulgarian Communist Party secretary and talks with Planning Minister N.D. Tiwari.

Trade Talks

BK230336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 80

[Text] Bulgaria is interested in purchasing textiles, knitwears, leather goods, (?dies) and dyestuffs and a major portion of its machinery requirements from India. This was indicated by the visiting Bulgarian delegation during the discussions with the representatives of the federation of Indian chambers of commerce and industry in New Delhi.

The delegation also proposed to assist India in setting up electric power plants, chemical plants, food processing units, tanning industries and cold storage facilities. Bulgaria is also willing to export fertilizer and collaborate in setting up a fertilizer project in India. It can also import iron ore from India.

PARTIAL SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN WELCOMED

BK221600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] The Soviet Union has announced that is withdrawing some of its army units from Afghanistan. The official news agency TASS today quoted the Soviet military command in Afghanistan as saying that some army units, whose stay in Afghanistan is not necessary, are being withdrawn in agreement with the Afghan Government.

Welcoming the Soviet announcement, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has said that the Government of India considers this a positive development conducive to defusing the critical situation in Afghanistan.

CARTER'S ORDER ON URANIUM SHIPMENT WELCOMED

BK201551 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] India has welcomed U.S. President Mr Carter's order approving shipments of enriched uranium for the Tarapur plant. An official spokesman in New Delhi said today that India awaits further developments.

The spokesman denied U.S. Senator Mr Alan Cranston's reported assertion that India tried to blackmail Washington into giving the fuel.

India only wants the United States to meet its obligations under our bilateral agreement on Tarapure. There should be no apprehension about India's firm commitment to peaceful use of nuclear energy, he added.

RAO, MUSKIE LIKELY TO MEET IN KUALA LUMPUR

BK201021 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie are likely to meet toward end of this month in Kuala Lumpur. They will be in the Malaysian capital for talks with the ASEAN leaders who are having the annual ministerial meeting. Foreign ministers of several countries have been invited for exchange of views. India is the only developing country invited to the parley.

RAO STRESSES PEACE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

BK211046 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has underlined the need for creation of an atmosphere of peace, security and stability within and around the developing countries for the economic prosperity of the Third World. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the leader of the Bulgarian delegation, Filipoy, in New Delhi last night.

Referring to developments in Afghanistan, Rao said that peace can be secured if nations are guided by the world recognized principles of international behaviour such as peaceful coexistence. Rao reiterated that India is prepared to explore with Bulgaria ways and means of strengthening the existing level of cooperation between the two countries.

MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH SOVIET TOURISM OFFICIAL

BK210952 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0929 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] A six-member delegation from the USSR led by Mrs Svetlana M. Simonova of the international youth tourist bureau (Sputnik) called on A.P. Sharma, minister for tourism and civil aviation, in New Delhi on 20 June.
]
Mrs Simonova informed the minister that 600 tourists from India were expected to visit Moscow for the Olympics to be held from 19 July 1980. She said that Sputnik, the largest bureau to organise youth travel to other countries, was engaged in attracting more and more people to watch the Olympics. It was pointed out that Aeroflot gave a substantial concession to young people travelling abroad. If Air India also extended such a concession for destination Moscow, more young people would like to visit Soviet Russia. The visit of more Indian students to the USSR would encourage a larger number of Soviet tourists to come to India.

Sharma assured the delegation that the matter would have his urgent attention. Dwelling upon traditionally strong ties of friendship between India and the USSR, Sharma said that India was interested in a greater exchange of tourists and the strengthening of relations through different channels.

DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS WITH U.S, HOSTAGES

Bahonar Meets Yazd Hostages

LD211848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Dr Mohammad Javad Bahonar, a member of the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today arrived in the city of Yazd and met with the American hostages held in this city. The Muslim student followers of Imam Khomeyni's policy dispersed the American hostages to various parts of the country after the abortive U.S. military aggression against Iran.

Carter Rome Remarks Scored

LD211936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1654 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Now please pay attention to our commentary tonight about the meeting between Jimmy Carter and the Italian president, and his meeting with the pope.

As you have heard in the news, in his efforts to rescue the U.S. economy and to continue to rule in European countries, Jimmy Carter, on arrival in Rome to attend the conference of the heads of industrial countries, today met the Italian president and the pope, the leader of the world's Catholics. According to an AFP report from Rome, Carter, at his meeting with the Italian president, told the latter that he considered the incident of the hostage taking of the Americans in Tehran to be exactly like the murder of Aldo Moro, the former Italian prime minister, by the Red Brigade members.

Perhaps Carter said this merely to arouse the sympathy of the Italians and, for example, by stressing a point important to the Italian people, to plead victimization and make the revolutionary act of our students seem like a form of extortion. But as in the past--as when Carter embarked on any adverse propaganda against Iran he brought nothing but disgrace upon himself--he made a big mistake in the remarks he made today--that is, in comparing the Aldo Moro incident to that of the U.S. hostages, he inadvertently raised a point which, if contemplated by any conscientious person even for a little while, would be discovered to reveal the depth of the crimes and plundering of America. Perhaps one could not stage anti-American propaganda in a better way.

After hearing Carter's remarks and after referring to their memories about the reasons for Aldo Moro's murder, the Italian people will definitely learn that this murder was committed by an aimless, anarchistic group purely for reasons of extortion and that there was no definite aim involved in this incident.

But in the incident of the hostage taking of the Americans in Tehran, the U.S. Government has shown itself to be precisely in the role of the Red Brigades and has stood against the holiest and highest aim of the revolutionary nation of Iran: to capture and try the biggest criminal of the century.

By hatching various plots and committing numerous acts of blackmail, which were executed in different forms like the statements and acts of sabotage of the Red Brigades, it prevented the advancement of the aims of Iran's revolutionaries.

For example, extortion--in the form of freezing Iranian assets in U.S. banks, distributing statements and publishing pure lies and abuse against Iran in Western publications; torture and slaughter, in the form of harassing Iranian students in the United States; causing explosions and destruction, in the form of various kinds of sabotage throughout Iran; attacks and invasions, in the form of provoking the Kordestan tribes; terrorism, in the form of assassinating Iran's religious figures; and dozens of other acts which no one, except a very powerful "red brigade" by the name of "the White House," would be capable of. Of course, in the meantime, the military attack in Tabas Desert should be added to the honors list of the "White House red brigade," which is exceptional, and which small terrorist groups are not capable of.

If there was no definite aim for the terrorists in the Aldo Moro incident, the aims are quite pronounced in the White House operations: Carter's aim in committing so many evil deeds is to crush the hopes of a nation that has risen in order to rid itself of international plunderers. The interesting point is that when the Iranian nation embarked on arresting the U.S. spies in order to prevent the continuation of the White House's subversive activities, to free itself from the various guiles of the U.S. authorities and to render their agents ineffective, the commander in chief of the "red brigade" was furious and resorted to vain means in order to disguise the main issue.

In any case, in his trip to Italy for the economic summit, if Carter is not able to force his European allies to once again obey his orders--which he will definitely not be able to--and if, on this trip, by giving the Aldo Moro incident as an example and comparing it with that of the hostages, he will further disgrace himself, he will at least make one great gain, which he will discover during his meeting with the pope, for the special White House photographers will definitely take extremely interesting photographs of the meeting between Carter and the pope. These photographs will solve his problems in an excellent manner during his presidential campaign and will arouse the sympathy of the U.S. people for the efforts of Carter, who, for the rescue of his spies, has even rushed to meet the pope.

Later, of course, Carter will not forget to have a number of photographs taken in the synagogue of the U.S. Jews, and it is even possible that in order (?to win the votes of) the black U.S. Muslims' movement, we will soon see Carter's photograph at the Friday prayers of the U.S. Muslims.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON ECONOMIC MINISTER, DELEGATION BAKU VISIT

LD202326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, currently on a visit to the Soviet Union, accompanied by his entourage, visited the Iranian consulate general's office in Baku yesterday morning.

The Iranian delegation later went on to the Kabu mosque and was received by a number of Baku Muslims on arrival. During their visit to the mosque, members of the Iranian delegation met with the Caucasia's Muslim sheykh ol-Eslam.

Welcoming the Iranian delegation, he said: We have the intention of holding an international conference in the Soviet Union on the occasion of 14th centenary of the Hegira, which is the year of peace. The conference will be attended by the representatives of the Soviet Union's Muslims and we hope that the representatives of the Muslim brothers from Iran will also attend.

He later paid tribute to the Islamic Revolution of Iran and Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In reply, the minister of economic affairs and finance of our country said: In my view, the mission of Islam is not war between the Shi'ite and the Sunni, but defense of the suppressed and deprived class.

He added that as long as oppression exists, Muslims could not remain calm.

Later, at the invitation of the Iranian ambassador to Moscow, the Iranian delegation attended prayers. They were accompanied by Caucasia's Muslim sheykh ol-Eslam.

Following prayers, Dr Mokri said: The aim of Islam is spirituality and it has succeeded in bringing us closer together. This unity and closeness which exist between the world Muslims and also the Soviet Union's Muslims have been created after the Iranian Islamic Revolution. This heralds a future of human creativity among the nations of the East and the Muslims who for years under the tyranny of colonialism had been strangers.

As you know and as you believe, our Islamic Revolution, whose great and supreme leader is Imam Khomeyni, does not only belong to the Iranian nation. This was a revolution which existed innate for a number of years and Imam Khomeyni succeeded in bring it to realization. Imam Khomeyni is the leader of all the Muslims, both Shi'ite and Sunni.

Our leader as well as yours, and many human being, are placing their hopes in a nature of worldwide peace and brotherhood.

According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the Iranian minister of economic affairs and finance, accompanied by the Iranian ambassador to Moscow and members of his delegation, yesterday met and conferred with Abrahamov, first minister of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan, [name and title as heard] during which Abrahamov briefed the Iranian delegation on the progress achieved in the republic. He said that the republic had been able to achieve great economic progress. He added that the republic was able to win the Lenin Award last year as a result of having the highest percentage of production in industry and agriculture among the Soviet republics.

Following Abrahamov's speech, the minister of economic affairs and finance of our country said: The Iranian Islamic Republic is not old enough to present statistics on its progress. Yet this question remains to be answered: Is it only the provision of material needs [words indistinct] Your ideology is only in the pursuit of material progress, but we have taken a path to promote the material position of the revolutionary people of Iran as well as to create inner peace under the shadow of Islam.

In his speech, the minister added: Both are countries that staged revolutions to safeguard the deprived people from hardship and injustice and to create peace and prosperity. Yet our path is only [word indistinct] and we are assured that we will succeed.

According to the same report, the Iranian minister of economic affairs and finance yesterday, in a radio interview in Baku, spoke of the bilateral economic ties between the two countries.

USSR'S SKACHKOV CITED ON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL COOPERATION

LD211350 Theran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY dispatch, following the visit to the USSR by our country's high-ranking economic delegation, an Iranian-Soviet protocol for economic and technical cooperation has been signed. Following the signing of this protocol Skachkov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, said in an interview: The Soviet Government is ready to cooperate in any way whatsoever with its southern neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran. He emphasized: We have never imposed our cooperation, nor will we make it conditional on any political demands. We will continue our cooperation in a spirit of observing the principles of mutual interests and respect for the right to national sovereignty.

The chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations said: Iran is a strong, independent country; and in the course of the commission's work we agreed to cooperate in the fields of steel industry, machine building and coal mining. He added: In order to train and secure Iran's manpower needs we are ready to set up technical training centers and to train Iranian technicians in our training institutions and factories.

Replying to a question on whether the Soviet Government would or would not place the necessary facilities for good transportation at the disposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Skachkov said: At present, an appreciable quantity of Iran's goods are being carried via the Volga River waterway. For instance, in 1978 about 658,000 tons of goods, including 315,000 tons of transit consignments, were carried. However, recently the transportation of Iranian goods by that route has dwindled, but it is expected that in the current year one third of the 1978 figure will be carried.

He expressed the hope that the volume of Iran's carried goods will eventually reach the 1978 level and that the Soviet Union will help toward that increase.

Continuing his interview he said: There are differences in principle between the Western countries' and the Soviet Union's industrial and economic cooperation with Iran. They have attempted to make Iran subservient to them but the USSR, in its industrial cooperation with Iran, makes a point of emphasizing that the industrial projects created in Iran should rely on raw materials obtained locally.

The chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations added: In the past Western specialists believed that sufficient coal deposits did not exist in Iran. However, with cooperation from their Iranian counterparts Soviet experts discovered the biggest coal deposits in the vicinity of Tabas, with reserves which would be sufficient to meet the requirements of Iranian industry for dozens of years to come. He added: Moreover, in our plans we have made provision to deliver the necessary machinery and equipment to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its coal mines and coal washeries.

In conclusion, replying to the question: "How do you visualize future cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union in the field of energy exchanges?", Skachkov said: The USSR is cooperating with Iran in building two powerplants, one in [word indistinct] (?near) Ahvaz with a capacity of 1,260 megawatts, and the other in Esfahan with a capacity of 800 megawatts. The first of these Iranian powerplant units was commissioned following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

He added: We are prepared to cooperate in the future with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of power and we are confident that cooperation between the two countries in that field will occupy an important place in the sum total of economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR. He said: We hope the two countries' economic and technical cooperation will continue to expand to the advantage of goodneighborly relations and will bring in its wake positive results for both countries.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON GENEVA AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE

Qotbzadeh Predeparture Interview

LD211628 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1047 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Interview by an unidentified Tehran Radio correspondent with Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh given on the eve of the foreign minister's 20 June departure for Geneva for the second session of the Islamic Conference's commission to solve the Afghan crisis--recorded.]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you believe there is any solution other than the withdrawal of the Soviet occupation troops from Afghanistan, the overthrow of the Karmal government's puppet regime and the handing over of the future of the Afghan Muslims to themselves?

[Answer] Our first objective is the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. As long as the USSR is in Afghanistan the question of there actually being a government in Afghanistan does not arise for us. It was with this in mind that Islamabad decided that we do not officially recognize those governing Afghanistan [words indistinct]. However, we do recognize them as a party to the dispute, as a party involved in the dispute, rather than as a government. [Words indistinct] so long as a superpower's troops are running an Islamic country [words indistinct], we cannot accept such a presence. Consequently, we stated in Islambad that the present Afghan regime, or any government set up under the (?Soviet) Government, will not be recognized by us as a government. However, as a party to the dispute, we are prepared to enter into negotiations with it--that is, either with Russia or with it.

[Question] To do what, to pull out?

[Answer] Yes, to pull out.

[Question] The point is that they do not want to pull out. They are actually fighting against this. What do you intend to do? Do you intend to settle the crisis or, rather, enable the Afghan Muslims to achieve the legitimate rights for which they appear to be fighting?

[Answer] Look, my dear fellow, in any war anywhere in the world there comes a time when the basic dispute should be clarified to end the war. If it is a crisis, then it should be resolved. If the basic question is not clarified, then the problem remains with us. Now the question is, should we enter into negotiations concerning the continued presence of the Soviet troops, or find another solution? I have cleared up the issue. Under no circumstances shall we recognize the presence of the USSR there. The Soviet troops must leave Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan must be decided by the Afghan people. As for how the troops must be made to leave, this is a question which ought to be discussed. Vietnam fought against America for 3 full years recently. It was the fiercest war, but they were still sitting down to (?discuss) the manner under which America should pull out.

[Words indistinct] therefore, the situation is clear: withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the handing over of (word indistinct) to the Afghan people.

[Question] Now that the basis has been determined, as far as you are concerned, what is your solution and the solution to be discussed by at the third commission in Geneva?

[Answer] You mean the second meeting. [Short passage indistinct] Having said that, we proposed that we should enter into negotiations with them officially and officially recognize them as a unit, as an Islamic liberation movement in Afghanistan at the world level. [Words indistinct] so this was in fact our objective at this conference. [Short passage indistinct]

As for entering into talks, in the final analysis we are prepared to hold talks with those sitting in Kabul. However, such talks would not be held with the government under any circumstances. The talks would be held with those who are a party to the dispute. Similarly, we are right now holding talks with the Afghan mojahedin. Consequently, we will not accept any solution to the Afghan crisis unless it is accepted by Afghanistan's Muslim mojahedin.

It is the duty of any dignified person in the entire world to help them by any possible means, both materially and morally, to enable them to sustain their resistance against aggression. Just as people throughout the world helped Vietnam to fight America [words indistinct], so too it is their duty to do the same for the Afghan people to resist Soviet aggression. The occupation of Vietnam by the United States--you see, America always claimed that the United States sent in troops to Vietnam because the Vietnamese Government had asked for help. This is precisely what the USSR is claiming. I have frequently stated that it is not right that when the USSR occupies a territory it is regarded as progressive and when the United States does the same thing it is called imperialism. Occupation is occupation. Crime is crime. The right of sovereignty is the right of sovereignty. There are no such things as progressive or reactionary tanks, progressive or reactionary bullets.

[Question] You were quoted as saying at the Socialist International meeting that should the status quo continue, we shall provide military aid to the Afghan movement. How far could this issue be extended toward becoming a reality?

[Answer] What I did was to give verbal expression to our people's feelings. Our people are quite categorical in wishing to give aid to Afghanistan, to the Afghan mojahedin. Indeed, I have said this. Actually, I insist on it. Should the Soviet troops refuse to leave, then everyone is committed to giving help to the Afghan mojahedin to resist the USSR, as they did in the case of the Vietnamese people. As for us, we are committed, on the basis of our Constitution [words indistinct]. Now the question of how this is to be done ought to be raised in the government by the Revolution Council, where a proper decision would be adopted and acted upon.

[Question] Following your remarks at the Socialist International, Radio Moscow recently carried a commentary in which it warned Iran against military aid to Afghanistan. Considering that recently our economic affairs and finance minister headed a delegation to the USSR to hold talks on expanding economic relations between the two states, and that we have close ties with our northern neighbor, what do you have to say on this?

[Answer] Economic issues ought to be discussed and debated. Meanwhile, the USSR must bear in mind that it cannot act as an elder brother [words indistinct].

In particular, I must refer to the question of gas, which is of prime importance to us. They used to plunder our gas, loot our gas [words indistinct]. We are prepared to burn our gas rather than submit to such exploitation. Should the USSR change its mind, deciding to establish fair trade, then we shall have fair trade with the entire world, including the USSR. Therefore, I see no cause for concern. However, trade and economic transactions do not necessarily give rise to any reason for political submission.

[Question] [Words indistinct] considering that General Ziaul Haq is an American pawn, the question is raised by the people of how Mr Ziaul Haq and Habib Chatti, whose string is being pulled by America, may take steps to help the oppressed Afghan people? They believe there is no doubt that there is a plot. How then, can you involve yourself in this process and consider this act a benevolent one, serving the Afghan nation?

[Answer] While thanking you for your frank question, I will give you an open reply. These assertions you are making are those being asserted by [word indistinct] and the Tudeh Party.

If you want to take this principle as the basis of your relations with other countries, then there will soon be no country with which you could have ties. This is somehow a racist view. It is pure propaganda against Pakistan. You should remember that the same regime in Pakistan refused to take the Americans' $200 million in aid. On the other hand, the same country has accepted the burden of feeding 750,000 Afghan refugees. Those saying that Pakistani territories were used by the Americans during their abortive rescue attempt are completely wrong. During the conference held in Tehran to investigate U.S. interference in Iran, the maps presented to the gathering proved that the Americans had come through the Persian Gulf. Why are you accusing a friendly country? Pakistan was the first country to recognize the new Islamic regime. These assertions are not fair to a country with many millions of Shi'ite Muslims who want to maintain friendly relations with us.

[Words indistinct] the thing is that even if any help is finding its way into Afghanistan it is not going through Pakistan. This is irresponsible talk.

Another point: You say that we are certain that they went through Pakistan. It is not quiet clear to us, for all experts attending the conference held in Iran on U.S. interference quite accurately demonstrated that they had come from the south, through the Persian Gulf. The Americans themselves said so and showed the plans. Therefore, jumping to conclusions and claiming that they had come through Pakistan would create doubt [words indistinct] among the people. Pakistan was among the first countries to condemn the U.S. aggression to rescue the hostages.

[Question] Do you consider Ziaul Haq's government as representative of the Pakistani people?

[Answer] [Short passageindistinct] This is not the issue. The point is, and I insist, that one may raise one's standard to a level where one could say: But there is no God but God; unless we find a country which is precisely identical to ours, where elections are held in total freedom, then there is nothing we want to do with that country.

[Question] But it is not a question of doing, Mr Qotbzadeh.

[Answer] But it is.

[Question] The point is that you want to eliminate a [word indistinct], the Karmal government. [incomplete sentence as heard] In the course of the first international Islamic conference in Pakistan, that country stopped a photo exhibition set up in Pakistan by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. They stopped it and did not allow the exhibition to open until the end of the conference. Now [words indistinct], this demonstrates that this is an illegal government, the fact that so far it has failed to have any elections. Then how can you allows yourself to cooperate with an illegal government, a government which does not represent its people?

[Answer] But I told you....

[Question--interrupting] Therefore, it does not represent the people.

[Answer] Even An-Nasir did not, for he never held any elections.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] My dear fellow, as for these demonstrations against Ziaul Haq, obviously he has opponents. [Sentence indistinct]. Listen, indeed the situation in Pakistan may not be ideal for us. The point, however, is that we cannot tell the entire world how to behave, what to do and what not to do. If Ziaul Haq is someone like the shah, then it is up to the Pakistani people to stage a revolution and act upon it.

Take the Soviet Union, for example. The Soviet Union and its government have been an absolute dictatorship from the first day. Should there be a free election, I assure you that the present leaders of that country could not secure more than 1 percent of the public's votes. Yet you want to maintain comprehensive relations with them and make visits to that country. With you, it would still be our northern neighbor--it would become our brother. This is something of a laughing matter. Now, as far as Pakistan is concerned, all the pressures are being applied on Ziaul Haq. It is interesting that the number of attacks launched on Pakistan by the Iranian papers is far greater than that on Iraq. You must allow the Afghan people to decide. What right do you have? If the Afghan Government wants to have relations with Pakistan and act accordingly, who gives you the right to say (?no). Under what pretext would you allow yourself to do that? Who has given you the right? You are acting as a guardian of the Afghan people. Such things are contrary to ethical standards. This is definitely a mistake. I am certain that [words indistinct]. The day will come when the nation shall have its say. Stop acting as a guardian of people all over the world. Every single day you are attacking someone, every single day creating clamors. Why do you not talk as much about Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the USSR and the dictatorships in these countries as you do about Pakistan?

[Question] But are you listening to me?

[Answer] I am listening to you quite carefully. What I want to tell you, my dear fellow, is that this has become a habit with you. You are carrying out precisely what the communists have planned.

Qotbzadeh, Chatti Statements

JN201913 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Jun 80

[Text] Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Geneva today leading a delegation to attend the meetings of the second session of the commission on the Afghan crisis. The commission was formed by the Islamabad Islamic conference.

In a statement to foreign press, radio and television correspondents following his arrival, the foreign minister said: This session will hold discussions to become acquainted with the Afghan resistance movement. He added that the Islamic Conference has not recognized and will not recognize the legitimacy of Babrak Karmal's government in Afghanistan and that the representatives of the Kabul regime were invited to take part in this meeting only as a party to the dispute.

Qotbzadeh went on to say: During the meetings of this session, a study will be made of the Afghan mojahedin's viewpoints and demands. In light of this, he said, we will become acquainted with the mojahedin of Afghanistan as a party to the dispute.

The foreign minister stressed the need for unity among the Afghan mojahedin and said: When this unity gets stronger and when they choose one representative to speak for them, their efforts and actions will be crowned with success.

In reply to a question on which side he supports, Qotbzadeh said: We support only the Muslim Afghan people.

On the other hand, Professor ('Abd ar-Rasul Khayyat), chairman of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, who arrived in Geneva at the head of a nine-member delegation, said that the delegation members have adefinite stand for the solution of the Afghan issue and that this stand will be explained when the meeting is opened.

Meanwhile, Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Orgnization, who also arrived in Geneva, said that the representatives of the Kabul movement [Harakah] may take part in this commission. Chatti, one of three members of the special commission on the Afghan issue, said that the commission seeks to reach a formula that returns to Afghanistan its independence and its ability to freely choose its political regime.

The second session of the commission opened in Geneva, Switzerland at 1930 today, Tehran time, in the presence of Sadeq Qotbzadeh, Iranian foreign minister; Agha Shahi, Pakistani foreign minister; Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, who is charing the commission's current session; and the Afghan mojahedin.

This commission's first session was held in Tehran 2 weeks ago.

21 June Report on Meeting

LD211800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] The committee to solve the Afghan crisis met today for the second day in Geneva. The meeting, which was attended by the foreign affairs ministers of Iran and Pakistan, the secretary general of the conference, as well as by the representatives of six Afghan mohahedin groups, reviewed the Afghan crisis. The correspondent of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a report from Geneva to which I draw your attention:

These discussions, which were held behind closed doors in [name indistinct] Hotel, lasted 3 and 1/2 hours.

Following the morning session, which was due to be the last one, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, told reporters that the committee would continue its discussions in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, in an interview with me and in reply to the question as to whether the discussions had been satisfactory, said:

Of course, the discussions were very fruitful. He said that during today's discussion, Afghan mojahedin representatives had stressed that they wanted the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces from their country. He also added: Three members of the mojahedin groups attending the conferance have been selected to cooperate in drawing up the conference's final communique.

It is necessary to say that the Geneva conference of the committee to solve the Afghan crisis has received wide coverage in the Swiss media. The majority of Geneva's morning papers have covered the meeting with a number of articles and pictures, outlining topics discussed at the conference. These articles, while discussing the issue of the Afghan crisis, have noted that Iran holds the initiative, that Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sadeq Qotbzadeh holds the initiative in all stages.

Committee Issues Statement

LD220640 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] According to our reporter in Geneva, the committee to solve the Afghanistan crisis ended the second day of its meeting following several hours of talks with the Afghan mojahedin and issued a statement.

The joint statement of the committee to solve the Afghanistan crisis, which was attended by the foreign ministers of Iran and Pakistan, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference and also a group of Afghan mojahedin in Geneva, says:

The committee, in accordance with its mission from the resolution of the 11th meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers conference, and in order to find a solution to the Afghanistan problem, held necessary consultations with the concerned parties, including the Afghan mojahedin. The committee heard lengthy and documented statements made by the representatives of the mojahedin with care, great interest and deep concern.

The committee also considered the needs of the Afghan people for food, medicine and other essentials for treatment of the sick and injured. The Afghan mojahedin emphasized that, in view of the difficult conditions and as the people are deprived of the basic necessities, there is a great and urgent need now more than ever for financial assistance to meet their requirements.

The Afghan mojahedin asked the Islamic world and other concerned nations for immediate and full assistance to help them continue their righteous struggle.

The committee assured the representatives of the Afghan mojahedin of the moral and political assistance of the conference, as had been stated in the resolution of the Islamic Conference.

The joint statement also says: The committee expressed deep concern about all the grief and hardship inflicted upon the Afghan people. This included the situation imposed upon women, children and the elderly; and the shortages of food, medicine, clothing and other essentials which have been caused by the vast destruction of villages, contamination of water reservoirs and other conditions caused by foreign military action.

The committee expressed support for the announcement made by the Afghan mojahedin of their readiness to resist military intervention and foreign occupation until Afghanistan is totally freed and its independence and nonalignment restored. The committee (?explained) the limits of its mission, as approved in the resolution of the Islamic foreign minister's conference, to the leaders of the mojahedin.

According to this resolution, the mission of the committee includes the respect for the right of the people of Afghanistan to determine the form of their own government and the adaptation of an economic, political and social system free from any intervention or hostile foreign action, and creation of suitable conditions to encourage the return of Afghan refugees to their homes in a safe and honorable manner.

The committee also assured the mojahedin of its scrupulous adherence to these basic principles in the committee's search for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan crisis through necessary consultations with all parties concerned.

The representatives of the Afghanistan mojahedin expressed their willingness to cooperate with the standing committee within the framework of the above-mentioned principles.

The committee expressed deep concern that following the military occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, the increased military and (?naval) presence of the superpowers in southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean are posing a threat to the security of the countries of the region, in particular the Islamic countries.

The committee decided that, while trying to find a peaceful solution within the framework of the above-mentioned principles, it would make every necessary effort to mobilize and obtain all possible humanitarian assistance for the suffering Afghan people, including food, medicine and other essentials which these people are deprived of as a result of foreign military operations in Afghanistan.

In order to find a peaceful and honorable solution within the framework of the committee's mission, the committee decided to have frequent meetings. To this end, the committee expressed the hope that other parties concerned with the issue would also consult and exchange views with the committee.

The committee will submit a report of its activities to the next extraordinary meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers conference in September.

The committee sincerely thanked the Swiss conference [as heard] for the facilities provided in Mont Pelerin.

22 June Press Conference

LD220730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0350 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, our country's minister of foreign affairs, Sadeq Qotbzadeh; Agha Shahi, the Pakistani minister of foreign affairs; the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, Habib Chatti; and representatives of Afghan political groups took part in a press conference at 1030 Geneva time last night, where they replied to questions put to them by Iranian and foreign reporters.

On the subject of opening talks with the (?Kabul) authorities, Habib Chatti said: We will first ask them to gather at one place at a certain time for talks. In reply to a question as to whether they would announce a cease-fire before holding any talks with the Soviet authorities, Chatti said: We will not announce a cease-fire as long as we have not reached an agreement with both parties.

In reply to a question as to whether or not Iran and Pakistan would provide more assistance to the Afghan mojahedin, Sadeq Qotbzadeh said: Pakistan is trying to help the Afghan mojahedin by every means, and Iran has made some efforts too. But as this assistance is insufficient--we will try to make greater efforts in this respect.

Asked about other mojahedin groups who did not take part in the conference, Qotbzadeh said: We asked the leaders of other mojahedin groups to take part in the conference and we think there has been a misunderstanding. They will agree with the results of this conference when we can talk to them again.

[Name indistinct], (?one of the) leaders of the Islamic front, in reply to questions asked by reporters, said: There is no serious difference among the various mojahedin groups in Afghanistan, and if there are any differences regarding the way to reach a common front, they will be solved soon.

He added: We are not planning to establish a government outside the country of Afghanistan, and if we cannot gain our rights through peaceful ways and friendship, we will not stop our fight even for one moment.

As to what the Afghan mojahedin expect from the United Nations, he said: Unfortunately, the United Nations has no power against the will of the superpowers [words indistinct] and we saw that when this organiztion demanded the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan it was not able to take any action on this matter.

QOTBZADEH COMMENTS ON SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

JN221938 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 80

[Text] Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh has said that he has no knowledge about the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. This was reported by AP in a dispatch from Paris. The agency also quoted the Iranian foreign minister as saying that he believes that the Geneva meetings of the Islamic Conference's committee will result in a change in Moscow's attitude.

Qotbzadeh arrived in the French capital after attending the meetings of the three-man Islamic committee which was entrusted with studying the Afghan issue. These meetings ended in Geneva yesterday. The minister said: These meetings will definitely have a positive effect in changing the USSR's attitude.

TURKISH ENERGY MINISTER ARRIVES FOR OIL TALKS

LD211630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] The Turkish energy minister, accompanied by a delegation of prominent economic experts from that country, arrived in Tehran this morning.

According to our correspondent's report, the delegation is to meet the Iranian petroluem minister tomorrow and is due to work out new agreements for the purchase of more oil from Iran.

According to the same report, Iran, in view of the goodneighborly and mutual relations between itself and Turkey which developed after the revolution, is willing to sell more oil to Turkey.

BANI-SADR SPEAKS ON 'GREAT MISSION' OF PRESS

LD210920 Tehran PARS in English 0750 GMT 21 Jun 80

[Text] Tehran, June 21 (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The first anniversary of the publication of the evening daily newspaper, ENQELAB-E ISLAMI (ISLAMIC REVOLUTION) was held at the newspaper's office on Thrusday. Speaking at the ceremony, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr stressed the need for unity and added that the newspaper can separate right from wrong and put the wrong for public judgement.

At the present stage of our revolution we need the same degree of unity that we needed in pre-revolution days. Our economic and political conditions call for fundamental changes in all aspects of our social life and to this end we need unity, added the president.

The newspapers do not lay the grounds for unity of schism, the newspapers rather reflect and intensify such incidents. In the case of the existence of unity, they intensify it and the same holds true for the existence of discord. If there is a problem somewhere, the newspapers can investigate the case and separate the right from the wrong. We should take the side of right and this will make the wrong diminish, added the president.

In order to rid ourselves of the domination of the United States and create an independent economy, we must discuss the issues with the people and in this connection the media plays an important role. In order to solve our problems we must find their roots, added the president.

The country should embark on a period of construction because the revolution is not only confined to destruction. A regime is overthrown and now we must start building the new one.

Bani-Sadr called on the press to fulfill its responsibilities and never forego its rights. In the postrevolutionary period, the press has a great mission and it should not become a victim of disputes among groups. He further added that the press should provoke the people and they should rather campaign against such an atmosphere. The media should be employed as a tool (for the correct way of thinking, not conveying thinking of one individual, and its task should not be the praising of certain people. The media should not blame the wrongdoing or mistakes of one person or a whole group.

In order to create unity, pointed out President Bani-Sadr, we must keep in mind that one main element of unity is ideological unity. To this end, we should put our minds together and this is how we will become closer to real Islam. One cannot say that the Islam to which I subscribe is right and just and the one that you follow is wrong and unjust. We should create an Islamic front, the objective of which should be implementation of the constitutional law in Iran, and strive towards Islam and independence from foreign domination. We should all use our efforts towards this objective. And the press can play and effective role in this connection, added Bani-Sadr.